

with those you now know and make fast friends of strangers. Let it be hoped that this program may be a realization soon, and when presented be devoid of selfishness, which, undoubtedly, robbed this community of this much needed project during the recent park bond election.

METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS: Government approved standard instruments for recording minimum and maximum temperatures, and precipitation, purchased by the city at the instance of this bureau are maintained under the auspices of the Torrance High School, where regular readings are taken and communicated to this bureau, and press sources for reporting. This information is developing a valuable record which may be used for specific types of industry where atmospheric conditions is a particular factor in their processes such as textiles and related concerns.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE: Recognizing that no community can expand efficiently nor invite satellite residence district development without adequate transportation prompted the transportation committee of the chamber to study various service proposals. The program was initiated to develop a feeder service system which might reach the outlying districts of the community, and through loop routing connect with existing rail and bus lines which would, in effect, expand such systems. The committee's report, however, developed finally into an extended line service which was designed to reach neighboring communities rather than performing interior loop function. The plan as submitted consequently met with disfavor from present serving companies, and was not officially approved by the chamber's board. The fundamental desire of the committee to work out a feeder system is an obvious necessity, and Torrance cannot expect to expand population very far in its territorial confines without contributing this requisite factor. One only need reflect his acquaintance with practically any community in Southern California to realize the truth of this deduction. Continued effort to solve this problem in harmony with existing agencies is the policy of the chamber.

PROPOSED CITY CHARTER: Several regular and special committees of this chamber have studied the question of charter form of government in the place of the archaic general laws system under which Torrance has operated since its incorporation in 1921. The matter of preserving distinctive attributes representing the territory and wealth which the community has secured through its annexations, together with the adoption of more flexible provisions for local government and the preservation of the local entity were primary reasons which prompted the serious study of the subject, and the consequent submission to the voters at the special election for the naming of a body of freeholders to draft a city charter. The body of citizens who were elected realize the sizability of their order, and as an independent citizen group have conducted wide research of charter forms of government from cities throughout the United States. Qualified authorities have been consulted, and when the product of the freeholders is ready for submission to the citizens it should be an example of some of the best proven characteristics of this type of government, which the experience of many other communities has demonstrated is practical, efficient and economical.

ALONDRA PARK vs LEGISLATION: The acquisition of Alondra Park by the County through condemnation proceedings, is an unfortunate example of the abortion methods which some of the public improvement statues permit. This park site, situated just north of the Torrance city boundary at Cypress Avenue and Riverside-Redondo Boulevard, comprises 317 acres, and is, in every sense of the word, a regional park rather than a neighborhood development. Unfortunately, a very limited assessment district was finally prescribed to bear the cost of this two million dollar project which is more than twenty per cent of the valuation of the district for its security. Various county officials have admitted the inequality of this matter, but state they are powerless to relieve the situation without remedial legislation. The McDonald tract which was annexed to Torrance last year forms a large part of the assessment district for this project, and the local administration agreed with these newly adopted citizens to lend their effort to secure necessary changes in the laws to permit a more righteous solution of this perplexing tax burden. The local chamber drafted enabling bills which were approved by the county counsel, sanctioned by the supervisor of the district and then taken to Sacramento where consistent effort was applied to secure their passage by the state legislature and subsequent signature of the governor. This measure is known as Assembly Bill 211, which is a big step in the direction of curing this evil. Strengthening amendments to this measure will be sought at the next legislative session, to make the statute more specifically applicable to this case. This one objective will ultimately result in saving the residents and property owners of McDonald tract and other parts of the limited assessment district many hundreds of thousands of dollars.